CLAIMS:

1. A method of forming a base plate for a field emission display (FED) device comprising:

providing a substrate configurable into a base plate for a field emission display (FED); and

forming a plurality of discrete, segmented regions of field emitter tips by removing at least portions of the substrate; individual discrete, segmented regions being electrically isolated into separately-addressable regions of field emitter tips.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises forming at least two regions.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises forming at least three regions.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises forming four regions.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises etching said portions of the substrate into at least two regions.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises etching said portions of the substrate into at least three regions.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises etching said portions of the substrate into four regions.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the base plate, as formed, comprises a monolithic base plate of field emitter tips.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising providing address circuitry operably coupled with the substrate and configured to separately address individual regions of the field emitter tips.

10. A method of forming a base plate for a field emission display (FED) device comprising:

providing a substrate configurable into a base plate for a field emission display (FED);

forming a plurality field emitters from material of the substrate, the emitters being arranged into more than one demarcated, independently-addressable region of emitters; and

providing address circuitry operably coupled with the field emitters and configured to independently address individual regions of the emitters.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the forming of the plurality of field emitters comprises etching material of the substrate to form the field emitters.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the emitters are arranged into more than two demarcated, independently-addressable regions of emitters.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the emitters are arranged into more than three demarcated, independently-addressable regions of emitters.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the emitters are arranged into four demarcated, independently-addressable regions of emitters.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the arrangement of emitters defines a plurality of rows and columns within each region, and the providing of the address circuitry comprises providing at least two separate row drivers for addressing rows in different regions of the emitters.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein the arrangement of emitters defines a plurality of rows and columns within each region, and the providing of the address circuitry comprises providing at least two separate column drivers for addressing columns in different regions of the emitters.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the arrangement of emitters defines a plurality of rows and columns within each region, and the providing of the address circuitry comprises providing at least two separate row drivers and at least two separate column drivers for addressing rows and columns in different respective regions of the emitters.

18. A method of forming a base plate for a field emission display (FED) device comprising:

providing a monolithic addressable matrix of rows and columns of field emitters, the matrix having a perimetral edge defining length and width dimensions of the matrix;

partitioning the matrix into a plurality of discretely-addressable sub-matrices of field emitters; and

providing row and column address lines operably coupled with the matrix and collectively configured to address the field emitters, at least one of the row or column address lines having a length within the matrix which is sufficient to address less than all of the field emitters which lie in the direction along which the at least one row or column address line extends within the matrix.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the length of said one row or column address line within the matrix is less than a length or width dimension of the matrix.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the length of said one row or column address line within the matrix is less than a length or width dimension of one of the sub-matrices.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the partitioning of the matrix comprises partitioning said matrix into more than two sub-matrices.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the partitioning of the matrix comprises partitioning said matrix into more than three sub-matrices.

23. The method of claim 18, wherein the partitioning of the matrix comprises partitioning said matrix into four sub-matrices.

24. A method of forming a field emission display (FED) device comprising:

providing a substrate configurable into a base plate for a field emission display (FED);

forming a plurality of discrete, segmented regions of field emitter tips by at least removing portions of the substrate; individual discrete, segmented regions being electrically isolated into separately-addressable regions of field emitter tips;

providing a face plate supporting areas of luminescent material; and

mounting the face plate in operable proximity with the substrate.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises forming at least two regions.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises forming at least three regions.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the forming of the plurality of discrete, segmented regions comprises forming at least four regions.

28. A method of forming a field emission display (FED) device comprising:

providing a substrate configurable into a base plate for a field emission display (FED);

forming a plurality field emitters from material of the substrate, the emitters being arranged into more than one demarcated, independently-addressable region of emitters;

providing address circuitry operably coupled with the field emitters and configured to independently address individual regions of the emitters;

providing a face plate supporting areas of luminescent material; and

mounting the face plate in operable proximity with the substrate.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the emitters are arranged into more than two demarcated, independently-addressable regions of emitters.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the emitters are arranged into more than three demarcated, independently-addressable regions of emitters.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the emitters are arranged into four demarcated, independently-addressable regions of emitters.

32. A method of forming a field emission display (FED) device comprising:

providing a monolithic addressable matrix of rows and columns of field emitters, the matrix having a perimetral edge defining length and width dimensions of the matrix;

partitioning the matrix into a plurality of discretely-addressable sub-matrices of field emitters;

providing row and column address lines operably coupled with the matrix and collectively configured to address the field emitters, at least one of the row or column address lines having a length within the matrix which is sufficient to address less than all of the field emitters which lie in the direction along which the at least one row or column address line extends within the matrix;

providing a face plate supporting areas of luminescent material; and

mounting the face plate in operable proximity with the monolithic addressable matrix.

33. A base plate for a field emission display (FED) device comprising a monolithic substrate configured into a base plate for a field emission display (FED) and comprising a plurality of regions of plural field emitter tips which are comprised of material of the substrate, individual regions of the plurality of regions being discrete and electrically isolated from one another and configured to be separately addressed.

34. The base plate of claim 33, wherein the substrate comprises at least two regions of field emitter tips.

35. The base plate of claim 33, wherein the substrate comprises at least three regions of field emitter tips.

36. The base plate of claim 33, wherein the substrate comprises at least four regions of field emitter tips.

37. A field emission display (FED) device comprising:

a monolithic substrate configured into a base plate for a field emission display (FED) and comprising a plurality of regions of plural field emitter tips which are comprised of material of the substrate, individual regions of the plurality of regions being discrete and electrically isolated from one another and configured to be separately addressed; and

a face plate supporting areas of luminescent material mounted in operable proximity with the substrate.

38. The field emission display (FED) of claim 37, wherein the substrate comprises at least two regions of field emitter tips.

39. The field emission display (FED) of claim 37, wherein the substrate comprises at least three regions of field emitter tips.

40. The field emission display (FED) of claim 37, wherein the substrate comprises at least four regions of field emitter tips.

41. A field emission display (FED) device comprising:

a monolithic addressable matrix of rows and columns of field emitters, the matrix having a perimetral edge defining length and width dimensions of the matrix; the matrix being partitioned into a plurality of discretely-addressable sub-matrices of field emitters;

row and column address lines operably coupled with the matrix and collectively configured to address the field emitters, at least one of the row or column address lines having a length within the matrix which is sufficient to address less than all of the field emitters which lie in the direction along which the at least one row or column address line extends within the matrix; and

a face plate supporting areas of luminescent material mounted in operable proximity with the monolithic addressable matrix.

42. The field emission display (FED) device of claim 41, wherein the matrix comprises more than two sub-matrices.

43. The field emission display (FED) device of claim 41, wherein the matrix comprises more than three sub-matrices.

44. The field emission display (FED) device of claim 41, wherein the matrix comprises four sub-matrices.